

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus for managing usage of an image processing apparatus, the information processing apparatus comprising:

a managing unit for managing log information that indicates the usage of the image processing apparatus;

a registering unit for registering image-processing-apparatus user information concerning an image-processing-apparatus user in the log information managed by the managing unit;

a first acquiring unit for acquiring a limit value of an amount used that is input in response to the registration of the image-processing-apparatus user information by the registering unit; and

a setting unit for automatically setting the limit value acquired by the first acquiring unit as a limit value of a usage fee for the image-processing-apparatus user.

2. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a second acquiring unit for acquiring system user information from an external information processing apparatus that manages a system user registered in a network system;

an extracting unit for extracting system user identification information from the system user information acquired by the second acquiring unit and for extracting image-processing-apparatus user identification information concerning the image-processing-apparatus user from the log information managed by the managing unit; and

a determining unit for determining whether the system user identification information extracted by the extracting unit coincides with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information,

wherein, when the determining unit determines that the system user identification information extracted by the extracting unit coincides with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information, the setting unit automatically sets an output limit value acquired by the second acquiring unit as the limit value of the usage fee for the image-processing-apparatus user.

3. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein, when the determining unit determines that the system user identification information extracted by the extracting unit coincides with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information, the setting unit automatically sets the limit value acquired by the first acquiring unit as the limit value of the usage fee for the

image-processing-apparatus user and, when the determining unit determines that the system user identification information does not coincide with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information, the setting unit sets the information processing apparatus not to allow a user of the image-processing-apparatus user identification information to use the image processing apparatus.

4. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a second acquiring unit for acquiring, from an external information processing apparatus that manages a system user registered in a network system, information indicating a system group to which the system user belongs; and

a decision unit for deciding whether a group that is a management target for the log information managed by the managing unit coincides with the system group based on the information acquired by the second acquiring unit,

wherein, when the decision unit decides that the group that is the management target for the log information coincides with the system group, the registering unit registers the image-processing-apparatus user as a new user who belongs to the group that is the management target for the log information.

5. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising a first display controlling unit for controlling a process of identifying a new user registered by the registering unit as a user who belongs to the group that is the management target for the log information and as a new user for the group to display the identified user in a display.

6. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein, when the decision unit decides that the group that is the management target for the log information does not coincide with the system group to which the system user belongs, the managing unit includes a second display controlling unit for controlling a process of identifying the image-processing-apparatus user as an image-processing-apparatus user whose group is unknown to display the identified user.

7. An information processing method for managing usage of an image processing apparatus, the information processing method comprising:

- a management step for managing log information that indicates the usage of the image processing apparatus;

- a registering step for registering image-processing-apparatus user information concerning an image-processing-

apparatus user in the log information managed in the managing step;

a first acquiring step for acquiring a limit value of an amount used that is input in response to the registration of the image-processing-apparatus user information in the registering step; and

a setting step for automatically setting the limit value acquired in the first acquiring step as a limit value of a usage fee for the image-processing-apparatus user.

8. An information processing method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

a second acquiring step for acquiring system user information registered in a network system;

an extracting step for extracting system user identification information from the system user information acquired in the second acquiring step and for extracting image-processing-apparatus user identification information concerning the image-processing-apparatus user from the log information managed in the managing step; and

a determining step for determining whether the system user identification information extracted in the extracting step coincides with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information,

wherein, when the determining step determines that the

system user identification information extracted in the extracting step coincides with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information, the setting step automatically sets an output limit value acquired in the second acquiring step as the limit value of the usage fee for the image-processing-apparatus user.

9. An information processing method according to Claim 8, wherein, when the determining step determines that the system user identification information extracted in the extracting step coincides with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information, the setting step automatically sets the limit value acquired in the first acquiring step as the limit value of the usage fee for the image-processing-apparatus user and, when the determining step determines that the system user identification information does not coincide with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information, the setting step sets the information processing apparatus not to allow a user of the image-processing-apparatus user identification information to use the image processing apparatus.

10. An information processing method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

a second acquiring step for acquiring, from an external

information processing apparatus that manages a system user registered in a network system, information indicating a system group to which the system user belongs; and

a decision step for deciding whether a group that is a management target for the log information managed in the managing step coincides with the system group based on the information acquired in the second acquiring step,

wherein, when the decision step decides that the group that is the management target for the log information coincides with the system group, the registering step registers the image-processing-apparatus user as a new user who belongs to the group that is the management target for the log information.

11. An information processing method according to Claim 10, further comprising a first display controlling step for controlling a process of identifying a new user registered in the registering step as a user who belongs to the group that is the management target for the log information and as a new user for the group to display the identified user in a display.

12. An information processing method according to Claim 10, wherein, when the decision step decides that the group that is the management target for the log information

does not coincide with the system group to which the system user belongs, the managing step includes a second display controlling step for controlling a process of identifying the image-processing-apparatus user as an image-processing-apparatus user whose group is unknown to display the identified user.

13. A control program performing information processing that manages usage of an image processing apparatus, the control program causing a computer to execute:

- a management step for managing log information that indicates the usage of the image processing apparatus;

- a registering step for registering image-processing-apparatus user information concerning an image-processing-apparatus user in the log information managed in the managing step;

- a first acquiring step for acquiring a limit value of an amount used that is input in response to the registration of the image-processing-apparatus user information in the registering step; and

- a setting step for automatically setting the limit value acquired in the first acquiring step as a limit value of a usage fee for the image-processing-apparatus user.